



Research Paper

Economic study of constraints and suggestions faced by the farmers in tomato production in Kolar district of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT : Organic farming follows the principle of circular causation and has emerged in response to questions on health, environment and sustainability issues. Although India occupies second position in terms of number of certified organic farms (44,926), it is 13th in terms of area under organic farming representing only 0.3 per cent of total agricultural lands. This scenario appears poor compared to many other countries. Farmers apprehension towards organic farming in India is rooted in non-availability of sufficient organic supplements, bio fertilizers and local market for organic produce and poor access to guidelines, certification and input costs. Capital-driven regulation by contracting firms further discourages small farm holders. An integrated effort is needed from government and non-government agencies to encourage farmers to adopt organic farming as a solution to climate change, health and sustainability issue.

KEY WORDS: Organic farmers, Constraints, Suggestions

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INTRODUCTION :

Organic farming emerged as a potential alternative for meeting food demand, maintaining soil fertility and increasing soil carbon pool. However, Indian organic farming industry is almost entirely export oriented, running as contract farming under financial agreement with contracting firms and as per the latest report (Ramesh *et al.*, 2010), about 585,970 tones of organic products worth US\$ 6.8 million are being exported from India. Most of the farmers are opting organic farming due to price margins which may shift motive of the commercial farmers towards economic vantage rather than for safe agricultural produce to competitively discourage small

farm holders. Additionally, limitations regarding bulk availability of organic supplements further constrain organic farming in India. Despite these issues, the increasing market demand and institutional support coupled with growing inclination of farmers to go organic have resulted in rapid growth in certified organic area during last 2-3 years. organic farming and the constraints therein impeding the adoption of this sustainable agricultural practice in India.

In Karnataka the area under organic farming is 4,050 ha (National Horticulture Mission Report, 2006-07). According to Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka there are certain policies and schemes to educate farmers about organic farming and various

training programmes in districts and taluks in Karnataka and is providing funds to the Non- Governmental Organisations and each organisation has a target to cover 1500 farmers and for that they are paying Rs. 200 per farmer per year to the NGO's to support the farmers. The Government of Karnataka has made separate cell called 'organic cell' especially for the farmers.

The Government of Karnataka is giving together of 100 hectares of area in each district and taluk, to be converted to organic farming for which state government has selected 29 NGO and given them the responsibility to work with farmers to make their farms organic and 50 per cent of the funding for organic farming has been given by the Government of Karnataka and rest will be incurred by farmer himself.

MATERIALS AND METHODS :

Multistage sampling design will be adopted in selection of Kolar district, tahsils, villages and vegetable growers'. At first stage, Kolar district is purposively selected on basis of maximum number of vegetable growing area. At the second stage Bangarpet, Mulbagilu and Malur tahsils are selected on the basis of higher area under vegetable growers. At the third stage from each selected tahsils, two villages are selected on the basis of higher area under vegetable growers. At the fourth stage, from each selected village 8 organic vegetable growers and 8 inorganic vegetable growers are selected. Thus, from six villages 96 growers was selected.

RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSIS :

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Constraints and suggestions of organic and inorganic tomato growers :

Constraints of organic and inorganic tomato growers:

Constraints of organic and inorganic tomato farmers in the frequency and per cent methods were calculated and presented in Table 1. It was observed that one of the most important problem faced by organic and inorganic tomato growers was scarcity of water because, of unseasonal rains, shrinking of ground water level the farmers are facing this problem which is predominant about 77.00 per cent in case of both the farmers. The next important problem faced by the farmers was timely unavailability of labourers and fluctuation of market price which was reported in organic tomato growers was 60.41 per cent and 39.58 per cent, respectively. Whereas in case of inorganic tomato growers it was found to be about 79.16 and 62.50, respectively. Another important constraint which was facing by inorganic tomato growers was high cost of fertilizers which was about 60.41 per cent.

Suggestions of organic and inorganic tomato growers :

Suggestions of organic and inorganic production in

Table 1 : Constraints and suggestions of organic and inorganic tomato production

Particulars	Organic tomato growers		Inorganic tomato grower	
	Frequency (n=48)	Per cent	Frequency (n=48)	Per cent
Constraints				
Scarcity of water	37	77.00	42	77.08
Timely unavailability of labour	29	60.41	38	79.16
Fluctuations of market price	29	39.58	30	62.5
Higher cost of fertilizers	-	-	29	60.41
Suggestions				
Use water conservation practices must be followed with the use of drip irrigation	38	79.16	35	72.91
Provision of labour through employment guarantee scheme by government	27	56.25	30	62.50
Fixation of MSP by Government.	38	79.16	34	70.83
District administration should make necessary arrangement to get timely fertilizer to growers and at the time of distribution 7/12 record	-	-	27	56.25

the frequency and per cent methods were calculated and presented in Table 1. It was observed that the suggestion of the use water conservation practices must be followed by farmers is about 79.16 per cent and 72.19 per cent in case of organic and inorganic tomato growers, respectively. Suggestion of provision of labour through employment guarantee scheme by government was 56.25 per cent in organic grower and 62.50 per cent in inorganic tomato grower. The suggestion of district administration should make necessary arrangement to get timely fertilizers to inorganic tomato grower and at the time of distribution 7/12 record compulsory for consumer of fertilizer was 56.25 per cent. The next suggestion of fixation of MSP by government for the tomato crop was found to be about 79.16 per cent and 70.83 per cent for organic and inorganic tomato farmers, respectively.

Conclusion :

Modern innovations and technology diffusion to agriculture coupled with massive demand of food grains by burgeoning human population transformed the agriculture from a circular causation mode to a linear flow model with complete dependence on external inputs of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Massive use of these materials although increased agricultural yield by many folds, significantly contributed to environmental degradation including green house forcing. The modern concept of organic farming (OF) emerged in response to the questions raised on health, environment and sustainability issues.

There is a need for a comprehensive framework that integrates of with bottom up responses, technology diffusion with reciprocal knowledge flow from farmers' institution and their local resources and innovation. This will help generating large-scale farmers' acceptance to solve ecological crisis in context to climate change and to address the health and livelihood security of large rural masses.

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